

15. How do these other passages help us to understand what Jesus says in verses 25 and 26.?

16. Jesus asked Martha (v27) "Do you believe this?" What would your answer be?

## Pray

Give thanks that Jesus is the resurrection and the life and pray for opportunities to tell people the gospel and that they might come to believe and trust in Him.

Pray for the bereaved remembering how Jesus wept with Mary. Pray that facing the shortness and sadness of life they might find comfort and hope in Jesus' promise of eternal life.

Pray for your regular Bible Study groups and those who lead them. For opportunities through these, Sunday teaching and personal Bible reading to grow in understanding and in living out our faith day by day.

*David Phillips  
March 2015*

# Meeting Jesus

## Week 5



## Martha and Mary

### Read John 11 verses 1 to 3 and 17 to 40

*In preparation it would be helpful to read the whole of the chapter and also Luke 10.38-42.*

## Martha

1. From what Martha said to Jesus in verses 20-27 what did Martha believe about Jesus, both about who He is and His power?

2. What did she also believe about the future resurrection? (This was what most Jews believed, as Paul explains in Acts 24.15).

3. Despite what Martha said she believed about Jesus and the resurrection, from what she says in verse 39 what did she apparently not believe?

4. Do you think the difference between v27 and v39 shows that her understanding and belief about Jesus was still growing, or that she had trouble in acting on what she said she believed?

5. What about us? How difficult is it to live by what we say we believe? Is this due to lack of faith, lack of courage or something else?

## **Mary**

6. Why do you think that Mary did not go to see Jesus straight away? (v20)

7. John tells us that Martha and Mary said exactly the same thing to Jesus but what was different about the way in which they said it?

8. It appears from Luke 10 that Martha was the more practical of the two sisters and Mary perhaps the more impetuous. Do you think these characteristics come out in how they responded here in John 11 and if so in what ways?

9. At a guess there must have been over one hundred thousand people who died in Israel during the time of Jesus' public ministry but only three instances of him raising the dead. He clearly had the power, why do you think he did not raise more?

10. When people close to you have died has it been a help and comfort to know the power and promises of Jesus?

11. In the pain of loss people can feel anguish or anger at God because He has the power to heal, or even raise the dead, but has not. Have you encountered such grief? How might you help someone in such a situation?

## **Jesus' teaching**

12. Read again John 5.25-29 (we looked at this in the third study on the lame man). What does Jesus say there about who will be raised and His role in the judgement?

13. What does Jesus say here in chapter 11 about who will be raised to life?

14. In the first study, on Nicodemus, we stopped at verse 16. Read John 3.16-18. What does Jesus say there about salvation, belief (faith) and judgement?